

The Personal Life of A Leader





Welcome to

The Personal Life of a Leader:
The Hidden Ingredients to long-term success in leadership

Course Overview: This course is designed to introduce you to some of the personal ingredients that lie behind the scenes in a leaders life. In it you will learn. . .

- About the importance of nurturing your own soul, faith, and health
- How family relationships work in the ministry
- How character and leadership work together

Course Goals: By the end of this course, we would like you to:

- That you would see the importance of caring for your life, family, and character
- That you would be given practical tools to do so
- That you would build a long-term personal life that would enable you to be successful as a leader in His Kingdom and finish the race well

Follow-up Study: To obtain full credit and benefit from this class, you must complete the following two assignments:

- 1) Re-read through the entire manual, appendices studying each activity and each scripture.
- 2) Read the Following Articles on the Prepare International Website – www.prepareinternational.org - under this course heading:
 - a. *Godly Parenting* by Duncan Watkinson
 - b.
- 3) Write a 3-5 page paper answering any three of the following questions:
 - What are the current strengths of your personal life?
 - How will your marriage affect your life in the ministry? Why is a strong, healthy marriage important?
 - Why is raising children who love and follow Christ important to the overall scope of your ministry and your life?
 - Describe the relationship of your character and your long-term success in the ministry?
 - How will you apply these lessons to your life and ministry?



Part 1: So What is a Leader Anyway?

A leader is . . . someone who has followers. That's pretty simple isn't it? A leader is someone who influences others to follow, that is, to live a certain way, to live for a certain cause, to serve a certain vision, to go somewhere, or do something that they would not ordinarily go or do. Leadership is Influence - the power to influence people to a different course of action and a different way of life.

Because this is the essence of leadership, many in so called 'leadership' in God's kingdom and the church are not really leaders because they have little or no influence over people. In Judges 5.2, the Bible reveals a clear principle of leadership: when leaders lead, people willingly volunteer and offer themselves and God is blessed. Many in the church are teachers and others are pastors, but we must have leaders - people who have real influence and can genuinely cause people to follow as they follow Christ.

The Role of a Leader

A leader has one simple role – **to create and inspire change**. Leaders are the change agents of society. They are the ones who envision things being differently and then inspire others to go there.

Change is critical for the Kingdom of God to come. Without men and women in leadership roles, there will be NO CHANGE! Things will stay the same. Satan has controlled much if not most of earth for thousands of years and one of the underlying concepts of the Kingdom of God is that Jesus has come to change that rulership and likewise, things in our lives and upon the earth must change.

If a person seems to be in a leadership role, but is NOT envision and inspiring change, he/she is NOT a leader, it does not matter what title they hold, they are not leading.

The Importance of Your Personal Life

To properly lead others and bear great fruit long-term, you must develop the kind of personal life that can both be followed and that can stand the strains of leadership. It is what you are that people will follow over the long run, not just what you do!

Many leaders have arisen and then fallen because of the neglect of their personal life or a belief that who they are in private is not important. It is on the strength of your private life that all of your leadership must flow. Your leadership will only be as good as your personal life. Listen to the words of Paul as he begins to establish leaders in the early church. . .



Bible Study: Read 1 Tim 3.1-12. What are the ingredients Paul is looking for in the lives of leaders?



It's amazing that Paul is not as concerned with what these leaders DO as what they ARE. He speaks about the personal life here as qualifications for a leader who will do well in God's Kingdom. These reflections by Paul fall into several categories that we will look at in this course:

- The leader's attention to his own soul and faith
- The leader's family
- The leader's character

As we prepare for God's work, it is essential that we build our personal lives on right foundations that the work of God can stand the test of time through us.



Part #2: Personal Devotion to Jesus

John – John was a leader of a church. He began his ministry full of faith and desire over 20 years ago. Things were so exciting then, and his future was so bright. John got into leadership because of his passionate love for Christ and his growing love for people, but over time, John got hurt by those he led. There was constant disappointments, discouragements, hurtful words and false accusations. Today, John is out of Christian leadership and often wonders what went wrong. He even questions his own faith and if He really even knows God in a real way.

Tom – leads a church of 65 people in his home town. He has led there for 25 years and has a very comfortable life. He has a wonderful routine he follows each week which leaves him plenty of time for other things that he enjoys. There is only one problem, Tom has not changed for the last 10 years and neither has the ministry. He has been in the same place with His life with God and stopped growing years ago. He has lost his spiritual edge and his ability to really inspire and lead people somewhere worth going.

Susan – Susan is a 63 year old woman who is on fire for God! She has served Him and led in different areas of ministry for over 40 years. People are drawn to Susan because of her vibrancy, her passion and her constant ability to change with what God is doing right now. It seems that Susan has been able to continue growing and moving into an ever deepening relationship with God year by year and it is evident in her leadership.



Reflection: Can you think of a John or Tom or Susan? What happened to them? Why did they end the way they did? What is the Key?

The Counsel of Paul to Timothy

Many years ago, a spiritual father, Paul, gave some advice to a young leader that he had developed: ***Pay close attention to yourself and to your [ministry]; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you. 1 Tim 4:16***

Paul tells Timothy to pay close attention to His own life and faith before even the ministry. He was in essence saying, *“Timothy, the ministry is important, but the health and growth of your own soul must always be a high priority. Make sure you are always feeding yourself upon the Lord Jesus Christ for only then your ministry will be powerful.”*

The Leader’s First and Greatest Assignment

Jesus had many people who followed Him but as He got to know them better and spent time talking to the Father about them, He chose 12 of them to be His



primary leaders in the work. Let's take a peak into the story to see what their first and greatest assignment as leaders in His Kingdom would be. . .



Bible Study: Read Mark 3.13-15. What was the first and great assignment Jesus gave these men before He sent them out to preach and do His work? WHY?

Jesus gave these men a very difficult assignment – Be With Him – that is, they were to walk with Him, eat with Him, listen to Him, and stick to Him like glue! Why was this their first and greatest assignment? Because only Jesus Himself is the source of all life and true ministry. Later, He told these same men, “Apart from Me [disconnected from or detached from Me] you can do NOTHING!”

The real question is, do you believe this? Do you really believe that apart from Him you can do nothing?

Just as that was their great task as leaders in His work, it is also ours today. We must first and foremost learn to and make a priority the principle of Being with Him.

What does it mean to Be With Him?

It does not necessarily mean. . .

- Saying some prayers
- Reading some Bible verses
- Singing songs
- Going to a service or a small group

It means. . .

To daily make a living connection with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ in which many things happen:

- Love is passed between He and you until you are aflame for Him
- You talk together – He to you and you to Him
- You walk together – Him leading and you following – you have His first hand word to you and others not just second hand knowledge
- You are constantly being taught and changed by Christ Himself

The leader's top assignment in leadership in the Kingdom of God is to Be With Him! ***Will you accept this assignment?***

Jesus told these early men that as they were with Him, He could then send them out to Preach {have a powerful word from Christ Himself for people} and to have authority to heal and deliver {have His own power for other types of ministry in people's lives.}

Making the Connection



Being with Jesus is like a two-sided coin. The first side of the coin is that of learning to make a connection with Him each day. Many people say prayers and read Scriptures but they never connect with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. That and that alone is the goal.

What Jesus taught His men:

Although each of us will have very different ways we might use to come and be with Him, there are several activities that He gave His men and other great leaders have used over the years. How did Jesus Live His Life? What did He pass on to His men that they took up and was the secret to their lives even after He departed physically?

Jesus arranged His life around a set of practices, which brought Him into a life of communion with the Father that was the source of His life and power.

The SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

The Spiritual Disciplines are . . . activities we engage in to enable us to interact with God and His Kingdom daily. They are practical life activities to make us capable of genuinely engaging God & receiving His life, grace and power and then living it out.

The Purpose of the Disciplines: To enable us to interact with God and enter the life of His kingdom. Each discipline is to be a door to God Himself and His grace working within our life.

The Problem of the Disciplines: They become religious tasks or laws to be followed instead of life-giving practices to be joyfully engaged in.

The Goal of the spirit of religion - to turn Jesus' life-giving practices into a set of soul-killing laws.

How do you know if you are moving in a spirit of legalism?

- Time with God is a task to be done instead of a Person to be with.
- You are surrounded with constant guilt about the disciplines.
- You rejoice more in the practice of some activity than Christ Himself
- You engage in much spiritual activity but your heart remains cold and unmoved
- Outward activities have replaced the reality of the Holy Spirits presence and power.

Keeping in the Right Spirit: We must constantly keep the balance and keep things in the right spirit! We must always remember that being with Him is the key, not the disciplines. They are the means, He is the end!

A Practical Look at the Spiritual Disciplines

#1 Solitude: Mark 1.35 & Matt 6.6

#2 Prayer: Luke 18.1; Acts 2.42



#3 Reading & Studying God's Word: Acts 2.42 & 1 Peter 2.2

#4 Fasting Matt. 6.16

#5 Other Personal Ways of Connecting with Christ

Although Jesus has given us common activities that we should all be involved with daily in our life with Him, many of us will discover other, very personal ways we find God and His presence in our daily lives. We are all individuals and must individually discover our way of best relating to Him. Some examples might be.

- Spending time in nature
- Reading
- Music



Reflection:

Describe your life of daily being with Jesus Christ?

What are your successes?

What are your frustrations?

Maintaining the Connection

As we begin to connect with Jesus daily and be with Him, the next lesson is to learn to maintain that connection with Him throughout the day as we live and lead. It is one thing to meet with Him in the morning, but it is an entirely different thing to maintain that living connection with Him throughout the day!

But there is good news. He has given us His Holy Spirit and one of the many roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to make Christ real to us and alive within us moment by moment. As we learn to walk in and commune with the Holy Spirit, we can maintain this living relationship with Jesus through the day and be inspired, led, taught, and empowered by Him in everything that we do.

In Acts chapter 4, we see a remarkable comment the Jewish religious leaders make about these first leaders of Jesus. . .

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and {began} to recognize them as having been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

They were right on one account - they had been with Jesus - but they were entirely wrong on another – they were with Him right then. By their dynamic, communing relationship with Christ through His Spirit, they were abiding in Him and He in them at that very moment! This was the secret to their power.



Bible Study: Read the following passages and describe what they teach us about maintaining moment by moment connection with Christ.

1. John 15.1-7
2. Romans 8.1-11
3. Galatians 5.16-18
4. 2 Cor 13.14

As we begin to daily connect with the Lord Jesus through basic disciplines and by other activities that He shows us, we must then learn to abide in Him or as Paul puts it walk in the Spirit. This is the maintaining of that living connection with the Lord Jesus through our turning to Him hundreds of times per day in worship, prayer, petition, and withdrawal of life.

Investing in Your Total Life

Besides this great daily assignment from the Lord Himself as a leader, another application of Paul's words to Timothy about paying close attention to the health and development of his own life would be learning to invest regularly into your own life.

You are the greatest tool for His Kingdom you possess and wouldn't it be wise to make this tool, the sharpest, most dynamic tool you could? You must learn to make consistent, life-giving investments into your own life.

There are several areas you should learn to invest in. . .

Your physical fitness – if your body breaks down or doesn't function well, you will not be useful to Him long-term. Regular exercise, good nutrition, and consistent rest is critical to leading well for the long term in His Kingdom.

Your emotions – As you minister and lead for Him, you will learn that your emotions will often get out of balance or you will become emotionally tired. It is very important that you pay close attention to the emotional side of your life. Discover what gives you freshness and replenishes you in this area. Things like: Music, nature, different activities, reading, and life-giving friendships.

Never feel guilty or wrong about investing in your life. Don't go over board in this and be self-consumed, but keep a healthy balance of giving and receiving in your life which will keep you healthy and growing throughout the years of your leadership.

Buying Fresh Oil: In one of Jesus' last parables to His men {Matt 25. 1-13}, the parable of the virgins, we have the story of Jesus coming for virgins {those who have kept themselves for Him alone} in which some were ready and some were not. This parable is traditionally understood as the second coming of Christ and yet there is a secondary meaning also.

When He comes for you for some act of ministry or service with Him, will you be ready? Will you be like the wise virgins who had a fresh supply of extra oil, or



will you be like the foolish virgins who were waiting for the Lord to come for them and use them, but had no oil.

He will NOT wait for you to go get oil (the anointing of the Holy Spirit) when He calls. He needs you right then! There will be no excuses when He comes and calls for you. You must go to the Dealer of fresh oil daily and make sure you have an ample supply for the need of the day.



Application: Answer the Following Questions as you think about your own management of your soul:

Have I made the total life commitment to BE WITH HIM?

Am I learning to connect with Him daily through spiritual disciplines?

What about my life and the moment by moment walking in the Spirit and practicing His presence.

Do I regularly invest in my life in the areas of my physical and emotional well-being?

Do I keep myself full at all times?



Part 3: A Kingdom Marriage

As Paul spoke about the underlying foundations of success in ministry (Titus 1 & 1 Tim. 3), He spoke more about your family relationships than any other single area. He knew that a solid, healthy set of relationships within the home was critical to long-term success in ministry, especially in establishing houses of peace. He made statements like:

- Be the husband of one wife
- Leads their children well
- Manages his own household well
- Wives be . . .faithful in all things.

Many families of men and women in the ministry today have become the landmine of their lives. They look outwardly good and holy, but they are failing at home behind the scenes. WE MUST live well at home if we are to lead in the house of God.

When marriages are in danger or failing, people in the ministry risk:

- Potential sexual immorality or pornography
- Discrediting the work of God with family failure
- Living a very stressed life because of emotional problems at home

Special Stresses on a Family in the Ministry

Family life as a whole is often difficult, but for those in the work of God, there are special stresses upon the marriage and children that others may not face. Some of these stresses are:

- A father or mother who gives themselves fully to the work of God, but totally neglects the family thinking they are honoring God.
- Emotional pressures of carrying the concerns of many others' lives.
- Higher expectations on the ministry family than others live under.
- Spiritual warfare issues of the powers of darkness coming against a person or family member to stop the work of Christ.
- A father or mother who is generous to the world, but keeps the family in bondage and poverty.
- Hearing wounding and damaging words about your father, mother, or spouse from those you are attempting to minister to.



The Bible on Marriage



Discussion: With a partner, describe what a marriage in God's Kingdom should look like. Use any scriptures you can think of in your description. Why is this a critical foundation to establishing a house of peace?

Although there is no clear definition in the Scriptures about exactly what God desires in our marriages, we can paint a good picture from the scriptures.

1. **Gen. 2.19-25 & 1.28:** The first mention of marriage in the Bible:
 - Not good to be alone
 - A helpmate for one-another
 - Leave your father and mother and cleave to your wife
 - Absolute openness and honesty without shame
 - God gives authority to rule and dominate the earth to not just Adam, but to them, to the couple

2. **Matthew 19.3-8:** Jesus teaching on marriage
 - One man & one woman for life
 - God has joined them into One Flesh
 - Let no man separate them

3. **Eph. 5.21-31:** Paul teaching on marriage
 - Husbands love the wife as Christ does the church
 - Husbands lay down your life for your wife
 - Wives, respect, honor and submit to your husband
 - Submit to one another in the fear of God

4. **Solomon on marriage: Prov. 12.4, 18.22, 19.14, 31.10**
 - An excellent wife is a great gift from God
 - Prov. 5.18-20: Be happy and satisfied with the wife God gave you in your youth. Find full satisfaction with her alone.



From all of these Scriptures and many more in the Bible, we can conclude a few things about marriage:

- Marriage is a covenant relationship created by God
- It is to last throughout life
- There is to be a Oneness between the husband and wife
- There is to be selfless love and submission lived out to one-another
- It is to be a highly satisfying relationship
- The purpose is to bring completion to one-another.
- Marriage is to bring great glory to God by doing His will
- Our marriage is to carry God's power to be fruitful, fill the earth, and have dominion.

Traits of a Godly Marriage

#1 Christ is Lord of All

The first and most important trait to build a marriage on is the Lordship of Jesus Christ. When He is really Lord in the heart and soul of both mates, marriage works! The Lordship of Christ will solve many if not most potential problems in marriage. Jesus makes a bold statement when He says. . .

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

Luke 14:26

Was Jesus advocating hating your family here? Of course not, because that would contradict many other Scriptures, but He was comparing the totality of His Lordship and the loyalty He deserves against the love in a family. He was in essence saying. . . Your husband, your wife or your children cannot be a rival to your love for Me or My Lordship. To be a disciple or leader in My Kingdom, I must have absolute loyalty no matter the relationship or the cost.

When a man and a woman live with this kind of love and loyalty to Christ, they have the greatest potential of love and intimacy with one-another. They share a common love, a common Lord and a common purpose - to seek first the Kingdom of God and to see Christ become Lord of all. This is and must be the foundation stone of all marriage in His kingdom.

A Problem

The problem occurs when one or both mates have not fully submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ for in these hearts selfishness and self-will still rule. The power to love and give your all does not live within the heart of self-love and self-rule, Christ must be all and all.



Reflection: Is Christ Lord of all in both you and your mate? Have you surrendered your all? What about your mate? How is His Lordship operating in your marriage?

Many people try to focus on having a better marriage, but the root problem of serving self has never been dealt with. Only Jesus as absolute Lord of the heart can deal with the power of self, and until self is dealt with, marriage will always be lived out on self-centered, self-serving terms. We cannot serve our marriages, we must serve Jesus Christ!

#2 Honor the Marriage Covenant

A second key principle of a kingdom marriage is to honor the holy covenant of marriage. In most societies, marriage is no more than a legal contract that can be done away with if things don't work out, but this is not the truth. Marriage is a covenant - a covenant created by God that He sees as holy and permanent.

World's View of Marriage

1. A legal Contract
2. Temporary, easily ended
3. A 50 / 50 partnership
4. Based on lust & convenience

God's Marriage Covenant

1. A Holy Covenant
2. Permanent with no out Clause
3. A 100% / 100% Covenant
4. Based on unconditional love

In the Bible culture, a covenant was always a relationship that was entered into only upon the most serious and thoughtful terms. It was a serious thing; a relationship that would never be violated and at all costs be worked at and kept right and true. This is the marriage covenant and God says this covenant relationship is so important, that He has used marriage as one of the key pictures of the covenant relationship between Christ and the Church.

Many are defeated in marriage before they ever begin because they go into marriage with the world's viewpoint and give themselves a way out when God says there is none. It is covenant! When things get tough in the home, and they will, the covenant and covenant love alone will win in those tough times. Covenant breaks the power of any thought of divorce, unfaithfulness, and simply existing together under the same roof.



Reflection: Describe your understanding of the marriage covenant? How is this different from worldly marriage? Is this the foundation of your marriage?

#3 Oneness

Once these two foundation stones are laid in place for your marriage, you now have the potential for God's will for your marriage - ONENESS!

For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. Gen 2:24

Oneness is . . .when a man and woman are living a single life together; that is, they are living for the same things at the same time in the same way under the same roof.

Oneness is the word God continually uses about marriage, but in many marriages, oneness is never achieved. It is God's will that you become ONE with each other physically, emotionally, in purpose, in vision and values.

Oneness in Purpose -When Christ is Lord of your hearts, you have the greatest potential for oneness in life purpose - to serve and glorify Christ with every area of your lives.

Oneness in Vision - Many marriages have two people doing two separate things, living two separate lives in the same home. This is NOT oneness. God wants you to share a common life vision. Every family should have a central vision that they are living for. Each individual person will have different gifts and ways of getting there, but you are all living for the same goal. This is essential in a marriage in the ministry. If you are serving different life visions, there will always be a tension and stress in the home and you may not be free to fully follow Christ.



Reflection: Answer the following questions about your family

vision:

1. What does your family really live for?
2. What is the goal of your marriage? Are both of you working toward this same goal?
3. What has God given you as a couple and family to do in His Kingdom?
4. Write out a family vision statement and how you see each person fulfilling this vision.

Oneness in Values

After you begin to determine what God's vision for your family is, you must then set the values you will live by in your home. Values are the guiding principles and beliefs that determine how you use your time, talent, money and other things. These must be very clear to all and both the husband and wife must live these out together whole-heartedly. You must discuss, define and begin to share the same values in the areas of. . .

- Your seeking and serving of God
- Your money
- Your children
- Your use of time
- Entertainment
- Many other basic areas of life

If a marriage does not come together in its basic vision and values, it can never walk in the genuine oneness God desires.

#4 Relationships Take Time and Hard Work

A fourth principle of building a marriage that will glorify God and stand the strains of ministry is giving your marriage time and hard work. All relationships take time and work. If we don't pay attention to the mate God has given us and attend to our relationship, it will surely either slowly erode or it will explode. Here are a few areas that must be paid special attention to:

A. Communication - The first area we must constantly work on is good communication. Communication is the cornerstone of all relationships. With good communication, a relationship is alive, healthy and growing, without it, the relationship dies.



To have good communication, you must take time to talk and listen and you must work hard at really communicating. Just because one has spoken, doesn't mean communication has happened. Communication happens when honest, heartfelt words and thoughts are passed and received by two people.



Bible Study: Proverbs is full of teaching on communication. Read and list what the following verses say about our speech and communication - Proverbs 6.17; 10.20; 12.18; 15.1-4; 15.23; 16.1; 18.13; 18.20-21; 21.23; 31.26

Communication is a two-way street. It involves both talking and listening and many are not very good at either. We must learn to express ourselves well and in a way that can be easily received and we must also learn to stop all other activity and listen.

Listening is one of the great arts of communication. It is the ability to silence and still everything else and really hear what the other person is saying. Sometimes people might not be saying things with their words, but their eyes, actions, or body language may be crying out a message to us. Sometimes silence has the greatest message we must hear.

Here are some truths about communication:

- Men and women have very different styles and needs of communication
- You and your spouse have very different 'languages' of communication
- It takes time, exploration, and hard work to discover your mates communication styles and needs
- Once words are spoken, they can never be taken back
- Reckless, hurtful words will destroy years of good words
- Affirmation and words of blessing carry much life and healing in them
- Honesty and transparency is a must in communication

B. Romance and Sexual Love - A second area that needs time and attention is the area of romance and sexual love in a marriage. Most of us enter marriage thinking that this area will simple work itself out, but often it does not. Many Christian marriages today are very non-satisfying and even dysfunctional in the area of romance and sex. God did NOT intend it to be this way. God prompted Solomon to write much about the glory of marital romance and sex.

"Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 {As} a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; be exhilarated always with her love."
Prov 5:18-19

He uses phrases like. . .

- Let your fountain be blessed
- Rejoice in your wife
- Be satisfied with her body
- Be exhilarated with her love



These are NOT the words for a boring sexual existence later in life. It describes God's will for all Kingdom Marriages ñ total fulfillment, satisfaction, and exhilaration in the sexual aspect of marriage. The problem is that this area too takes time and hard work. The sexual and romantic side of the relationship if left uncultivated will often produce frustration and a very unsatisfying life together which leaves the door open for the enemy in the area of lust, adultery, pornography, and unfaithfulness. The demands of life, work, and the ministry will drain the romantic side of marriage if we are not careful. We must give attention to this area of our marriages.

Some Truths about Romantic, Sexual Love

- Our sexual life must be developed and cultivated like a garden
- We must talk openly and honestly about this area of our life with our mate ñ expressing our feelings without accusing or wounding.
- We must deal with all lust, fantasy, or other sensual sins ñ self-control and love must govern this area of our life
- We must keep the marriage bed undefiled ñ we should not discuss this area with any others and we should not bring the sexual sin of the world into our marriage beds
- We must plan and give time to this area of our marriage

C. Men Must Understand the Needs of Their Wives - A third area that must be constantly worked on is the husband understanding the needs of his wife. Although you are in the work of God together, she has needs that must be met if the marriage is to work well. Peter said. . .

"You husbands likewise, live with {your wives} in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." 1 Pet 3:7

Things men must understand:

- She is emotionally based by nature ñ not fact based
- She has emotional needs that you perhaps don't
- She has a need for communication beyond the surface level
- She has the need for a home that she can be proud of
- She has the need to feel that you believe in her and proud of her
- She has the need to feel that you protect her and give her security

Peter, a man who had a believing wife together with him in the ministry as they traveled, said that your prayers would be hindered if you don't live with your wife in a way that understands her needs and grants her equal honor in God's eyes.

#5 Properly Handling Conflict

In all marriages there will be conflict. How you handle it will determine if you really achieve the oneness that God promises and fulfill God's vision for your marital life. When conflicts come, you have the greatest potential for wounding and causing lasting damage in one-another OR using the conflict as a stepping stone to deeper intimacy, love and oneness.



Discussion: Answer the following questions with a partner:

- a) Why do people fight or quarrel?
 - b) Why is it essential for a couple to learn to resolve conflicts well?
 - c) What does unresolved conflict do in marriage?
 - d) What happens when we resolve conflict but leave hurt & bitterness?
 - e) How would you rate you and your mate in resolving conflict?
 - f) How do you currently resolve conflict? What do you need to do to improve?
-

Conflict is the result of several factors: poor communication, unfulfilled expectations, attempts to control, God's Helpmate Principle, or often just plain old selfishness.

Conflict is not bad. It brings differences out into the open, it provides the opportunity to break through barriers to superficial relationships, it provides the chance for growth in communication, love and oneness. But unresolved conflict or poorly handled conflict is like an acid which eats away at a good marriage.

The Helpmate Principle: In Gen. 2.18-22, the Bible teaches us that God designed the marriage relationship to be a helpmate relationship. This word 'helpmate' means a companion who brings completion and wholeness. God has designed our marriages to act in such a way that they expose our weaknesses, sins, and areas of unwholeness so that He can heal and fulfill us.

One of the way this relationship does this is that God leaves things within us that cause conflict with our mate. We tend to blame them when the sinful reaction comes up within us, but the truth is, we are sinning. Completion & Oneness are worked out in the "Holy Grind" of Marriage. Many times in marriage, we 'grind' against our partner and conflict arises. God designed marriage to operate this way and it is this "Holy Grind" of the helpmate that He uses to complete and perfect us.



Prov 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another

- God purposefully leaves things that cause problems for the mate
- Strategically placed attitudes, values, habits, etc to root out, bring to the surface, for cleansing and healing you life.
- You can either blame your mate and demand them to change or you can allow the grind to uncover your sin, insecurity, and unholy areas and deal with them through God's grace.

Wrong Ways of Approaching Conflict

- Fighting to Win - I am right and you will see it my way!
- Withdrawing - I just won't talk anymore. I will just exist here.
- Yielding - OK, have it your way. It's not worth another argument
- Wounding - I might not win, but I can hurt you with my words!

The Right Way to Handle Conflict = Loving and Honest Confrontation

- We will NOT try to WIN. Winning is resolving the conflict well.
- We will NOT let the sun go down on anger. We will solve the problem today no matter how long it takes.
- We will tell the truth to one-another in love without wounding
- We will let our defenses down and really listen to one-another
- I will forgive and release any hurt or resentment

Tips for Taking Action:

- a. Choose the right time and place. When you are tired, hungry, in the middle of a major project, or with others is not wise.
- b. Tell your partner with the proper attitude and motive what specific action or attitude has created the problem. Discuss only what was said or done and not your mate.
- c. Listen, listen, listen!
- d. Avoid all kinds of tricks, games, and manipulations.
- e. Take responsibility for your own actions and problems.
- f. Avoid bringing up past mistakes and problems. Focus on the now.

#6 Discover and Champion Your Mates Calling

We must discover in our marriage that our mates' gifts and calling is as important as ours, just different. It is essential in a marriage in the ministry to discover, develop, and champion the gifts and calling in your partner.

Most often in Western Christianity, men are set free to pursue the call of God to His work but women are left tending to the children or simply filling roles in music and children's ministry. This is NOT the will of God and it is NOT what He is doing all over the earth.



God Uses People - Some are in the body of a man and some are in the body of a woman.



Reflection: How do you see most marriages in the ministry working together? How do you and your mate work together in the work of Christ? How would you like for your marriage to work together for Him?

God Calls Husbands and Wives together in the Ministry - The Ministry of Jesus Christ is never meant by God to be a barrier to marriage

- We often feel that ministry is in competition with our marriage and family
- We feel that our family obligations are a distraction to what really matters ñ ministry

When God calls a man or a woman into His work, He always calls both in some way. The Problem is that we don't know how to recognize our callings as a couple. We normally find men leading and their wives working in small ways behind the scenes or women who are doing something and their husbands are not involved at all.



Bible Study: The Picture of Christ & the Church (Eph. 5.22-32)

- Jesus does NOT save His bride and then leave her at home to care for herself while He goes off into the world to save it.
 - Jesus & His bride enter the world in a joint calling to minister
 - He lovingly draws His bride into His work in the world & He changes the world through His bride
 - Jesus nurtures us, uncovers gifts within us, empowers us and releases us
-

Key Question to Husbands in the Ministry: Do I really believe that the gifts of my wife are as important in God's Kingdom as mine are?

A Few Keys to Discovering one Another's Callings and Gifts

- Recognize the gifting and calling in your mate by encouraging them to try many avenues and areas of ministry.
- Receive your mates' giftings and calling. It is easier often to just leave your mate behind and do your own ministry. We must receive his/her gifts and bless them ñ esp. if you are the husband.



- Release your mate into the ministry. You must make room for their gift to operate and grow especially if you are a male spiritual leader trying to release your wife. Speak constant faith and encouragement about the hand of God upon them. Find and create opportunities for your mate to minister.

Discovering How You Work Together in the Ministry

As you begin to discover one-another's gifts and callings, you then should seek to learn how to work together in the ministry. Here are a few ways your marriage might work as a team in God's work:

1. **Joint Ministry:** When a couple share the same type of ministry and work and possibly lead it side by side. Will have different gifts and must learn to work together.
2. **Diverse but Complimentary Ministry:** When a couple are working within the same vision but are involved in different ministries. Both hold substantial roles in their respective areas and could even be up-front lead out people and both are fulfilling the same vision.
3. **Arrowhead and Feather Ministry:** One of the couple is in an out-front visible ministry position and the other is a strong supporter in the background.



Application: Think about the following:

1. If you are married answer these questions with your spouse -
 - a. Discuss what you see that YOUR gift and calling is and what you see is the gift and calling of YOUR SPOUSE.
 - b. In which of these three ways mentioned above is your marriage working together? How is it going? What are the difficulties you are both facing in working together?
 2. If you are single answer these questions with a partner -
 - a. How have you seen marriages work together in the ministry? What has been good and what has not been good?
 - b. In marriages in the ministry, have you seen the gifts and callings of both spouses developed and released into the ministry? Discuss.
 - c. What will happen if all in the BODY of Christ, men and women, are fully developed, developed, trained and released into His service?
-





Part 4: Raising Kingdom Children

The first foundation stone for a solid family life is our marriage, but the Apostle Paul goes on to talk about how leaders raise their children. In 1 Tim 3, he makes statements like:

- *{He must be} one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity*
- *(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?);*
- *{and} good managers of {their} children and their own households.*

We as leaders and servants of Christ must give great priority to the raising of our children. We will never have a house of peace if our children are given proper attention. What will it profit us if we gain the whole world and yet lose our children? Many men and women spend enormous amounts of time winning and discipling others, but neglect their first disciples ñ their children.

God's Plan for Our Children



Discussion: In a small group, write one sentence which defines God's will and plan for the raising of your children.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord. The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them." Psalm 127: 3-5

It is God's will and plan that we populate the earth with Christ filled godly offspring. It is His plan to give parents children who will be raised in such an environment that they will leave the home and be like weapons of war in His hands upon the earth. In the above verse it says. . .

- Children are a gift and reward from the Lord
- A man should be happy if his home is full of them
- They are to be raised in such a way that they will be like an arrow, fashioned and shot from the home to hit a definite target ñ Jesus Christ and His Kingdom's work!

It is God's desire that we create such an environment in our homes that our children will be fashioned with hearts and lives for Christ and that they would eventually leave us and hit the target of doing God's will on the earth. This is our great responsibility in the Lord. WE MUST ACCEPT IT. God has NOT given this responsibility to the church; He has given it to parents!



You need to understand that there is a direct attack by the powers of darkness for the children of believers and especially the children of those who are on the front lines leading for Christ. We often know how to defend ourselves, but often our children are vulnerable and open to assault. We MUST protect them and raise them in fear of the Lord.

Examples from the Bible

There are many examples from the Bible of parenting, some bad and some good. We must heed what the Bible has to teach about our children.

Examples of Successful Ministries but poor parents. . .

1. Samuel - 8.1-7
2. David - entire story of all of his children (Absalom = 2 Sam 13-20, Amnon = 2 Sam 13.1-15, Adonijah = 1 Kings 1, Solomon)
3. Many of the Kings of Judah

From these we can learn the following principles of being a parent and being in the ministry:

- Just because you live for God and serve Him does NOT mean that your children will
- You must take time to discipline and bring character and morals to your children. God will NOT do it for you, you must do it
- The sins that live in the father or mother, if not repented of and dealt with will be passed onto and be in greater measure in the children
- Neglect of raising your children will eventually bring down all that you have lived for or will perpetuate it. God intends that our children take over and build upon our lives.

Examples of Parents who successfully passed the faith on. . .

1. Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob
2. Timothy's Mother

About Abraham, God says, "For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." Gen 18:19

"For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that {it is} in you as well. . . and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim 1:5, 3.15

These parents successfully passed on the faith, character, morals, and the ways of God to their children and they got it. What was the result, these children - Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Timothy were mightily used by God to touch their world and carry on the faith. They became "arrows" in the hands of the Lord sent to do His will.

Principles of Raising Godly Children



Reflection: What is important in raising our children in such a way that they will carry the faith and we will not be disqualified in spiritual leadership?

As we look at a few keys to train our children, we turn again to a thought from the Apostle Paul to help guide us in our journey. . . ***“And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”***
Eph 6:4

From Paul, we get three important principles in raising our children:

Love = The creation of the atmosphere in a child’s life where they know they are loved, accepted, and blessed.

Discipline = the bringing into our children’s lives the necessary restraint and training to form their behavior, attitudes, morals, etc.

Instruction = the forming of our children’s spiritual heart and mind so that they would fully follow Christ for a successful life.

A Blue-Print for Life

As you apply these three basic principles, you are giving your children a blueprint for their lives. In this blueprint, you must include:

- Their Faith and devotion to Jesus Christ
- Morals and values
- Boundaries and Rules
- Life skills for success
- A vision for their future

Principle #1 A Kingdom Centered Home-life

The first step we must take is to establish a kingdom culture and atmosphere in our home. Our home and the atmosphere in it must be absolutely centered upon the Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot preach one message and then live another in our homes. Our children will NOT do what we SAY, they will DO what we DO!

Here are some ideas about creating this environment:

- a) Parents must be the priests of the home, creating an environment where Jesus Christ is free to dwell and live.



- b) Parents must regulate and protect what comes into the home. Adam was right there with Eve when she was being tempted and ate of the fruit. He failed in his role to regulate and protect his family when evil was trying to come in. We as parents have the God-given right and responsibility to say what comes in our home in the form of TV, Music, Entertainment, etc..
- c) We must provide kingdom activity that is both fun and stimulating for our children. Children don't need to just sit and hear about God, they need to do something. Create many opportunities for your children to go and use their faith that you are teaching them.

Principle #2 Bring Consistent Discipline to Your Children's lives

The disciplining of our children is not a negative thing, but in the eyes of God a very positive part of our Kingdom parenting. According to the Bible, discipline is the bringing of rebuke, correction, and reproof, through words or some form of punishment for the purpose of breaking negative attitudes, behaviors, and patterns for the sake of children living in holiness and the fear of God. And according to the Bible, consistency and faith are the keys. (See Heb. 12.5-11)

One of the most disruptive and damaging things to our ministry is when others see ours or other leaders' children out of control or with no discipline. Many children are left to run wild because mom and dad are busy with the Lord. People will see this and wonder about your life!

This is where many parents fail - consistent discipline. There are several extremes parents fall into in the area of discipline:

- The World's Viewpoint #1 - No discipline at all.
- The World's Viewpoint #2 - The discipline of words only ñ making threats with no real consequences for bad actions and attitudes.
- Inconsistent Discipline - sometimes but not always or sometimes very harsh and sometimes very lenient.
- Anger Led Discipline - you let things go and then discipline when you get angry enough.
- Parental Neediness Based Discipline - the parent does not discipline the child consistently because the parent has emotional needs and does not want to lose the child's love.
- Disciplining Actions but Not Attitudes - God doesn't just look at our actions, He deals with our attitudes. We must be as consistent dealing with the attitudes of our children as their actions. The attitudes lead to the heart!

Listen to what the Bible says about disciplining our children:



Bible Study: Read Heb 12.5-11, Prov. 19.18, 22.15, 23.13, 29.15

Things We Learn About Discipline Here:

- If we do not discipline our children consistently, we DO NOT LOVE THEM.



- Proper discipline will drive foolishness from the child's heart - we must apply faith in God's promise when we discipline
- Proper discipline will not harm our children, in fact, it is there only hope to a solid, mature life.
- Begin discipline early in life before major negative patterns are developed.
- Discipline must be of two kinds ñ the rod & reproof. Words alone are NOT enough, we must use the rod.

Practical Thoughts on Discipline:

- We must have clearly defined rules and boundaries with clearly defined forms of discipline for the violation of these rules.
- Never discipline out of anger.
- Get to the root of the issue not just the outward behavior.
- Discipline attitudes as much as actions.
- Love and affirm after all forms of discipline. **BE CONSISTENT.** Be the same every day, in every situation, and in every location. Don't let things slide because of inconvenience.
- Make sure they understand the why and what you are trying to correct in the discipline. Remember, the purpose of discipline is NOT punishment, but formation of the child.
- In disciplining, use restraint. Remember Paul's warning in Eph 6.4: ***Father's don't provoke your children to anger or as it says in another version, don't exasperate them.*** What does this mean? Don't make it so hard or so religious or so boring that they can't live the standards you set. If the discipline and standards are beyond them, they will get exasperated with the whole process and get angry and bitter inside.
- The discipline must be strong enough to correct the problem.
- Remember, they are just children.
- Don't discipline immaturity, discipline disobedience and the breaking of the rules of the home.
- You must balance Play with your discipline. Children's hearts are built for fun and play and through playing with our children we enter their world and then through training and discipline, we can draw them into ours ñ the Kingdom of God.

Do not settle for your children being like the children of the world. God has not intended it or designed it to be that way. Bring the necessary discipline into your children's lives that will create in them a holy fear of God and a healthy self-esteem.

Principle #3 Teach Your Children Always

The third injunction of Paul toward parents who are Christians and especially leaders is to teach your children the ways of the Lord. Many if not most Christian homes have given the task of teaching the children to the church and to the school. This is NOT the way of the Lord. Parents, not the church, are responsible for their children.

"And you shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. "And you



shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens {remain} above the earth.” Deut 11:19-21

Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.
Prov 22:6

The Bible uses two different words in this idea of teaching - **teach and train**.

Teaching = The passing of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding through speech and talking. The passage in Deuteronomy above uses phrases like:

- Talking of them. . .
- When you sit down, when you walk along the road, when you rise up and lie down. . .

Giving us the basic idea that we should use every moment in our lives to speak to our children. It implies planned and spontaneous instruction - instruction at all times.

Training = The develop of life skill by talk, showing, practicing, and doing. This word implies the concept of apprenticeship. In essence we are to talk to our children, model the things they are learning, let them do it, and give them feedback until they are excellent and skilled in living life well! This will take a total life effort with no days off!

Things we should teach and train our children in:

- The Faith** - We should teach them daily about God, Jesus, the Spirit and living for Him. We should pass on through planned and daily life all that God promises, all that He requires and a passionate love and faith in Jesus Christ.
- How To's of the Faith** - Prayer, Bible Reading, Fasting, Obedience, Witnessing, Giving, etc.
- Morals** - Honesty, Humility, Sexual purity, Hard work, Courage, Respect for Authority.
- Values** - Loving God, Loving Others, Serving, Giving
- Basic life skills** - courtesy, relationships, handling money, etc..

Ways we can pass these things on to our children:

- Family Devotion Time** - a time set aside daily or several times a week for family worship, prayer, and teaching.
- Family Personal Studies** - as a family, study something each week individually and then discuss it one day. Memorize scripture
- Spontaneous Interaction** - Being open to those hundreds of divine training moments a week to interject knowledge and wisdom.



d) **Planned Activities** - much of the training must be done through doing not talking. Plan activities to train your children.

e) **Working Together** - through working side-by-side, you can put many things into the hearts of your children. They learn more by seeing than by hearing.

f) **Putting them in situations** where others will teach them.

Principle #4 The Importance of Our Words - Most of us do not understand the power of our words, especially in the lives of our children. The Bible says . . .
Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
Prov 18:21

With our words, we have the power to give life or death. Our words have tremendous power in the lives of people, but especially in the lives of our children. With them we can bring DEATH to our children or with them we can bring LIFE!

Speaking Death - Prov 12:18 *“Reckless words pierce like a sword. . .”*

When we speak reckless, critical, harsh, cutting words, we literally are taking a sword and creating deep wounds and pain in the hearts of our children. Many parents speak words of death over and over into their children and then wonder why they are as they are. These harsh, hard, critical words are damaging deep into the hearts and minds of our little ones or teenagers and we are creating patterns of self-esteem that they will live with for the remainder of their lives.

Speaking Life - Prov 12:18 *“. . .but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

We have the power to create and heal with our words to our children. We have the power to build within them great self-worth, confidence, peace, love, and a positive outlook on life. The words we use daily are the building blocks of their lives.

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such {a word} as is good for edification according to the need {of the moment,} that it may give grace to those who hear.
Eph 4:29

The word used here by Paul for “unwholesome” is the word used for rotten fruit or vegetables, that which is good for nothing and causes sickness, and decay. How many words do we speak into our children like this? God’s command to us here is that we would speak words that edify {build up and create something big within}; words that give grace to our children. He is asking us to be like Jesus. Jesus always spoke the positive, the good, the promise if He could and His words were unbelievably life-giving.

Affirmation and praise: One way we can do this is by giving our kids constant affirmation and praise; finding the good in them first; finding the positive about them before we correct or criticize. When we tell our kids that they are great,



that God is upon them, that there is nothing they can't do through Him, we are creating a positive flow of thought giving grace to them. When we see them doing something good, praise them!

Principle #5 Other Practical Thoughts About Raising Godly Children

a) Try to discover your child's gifts and callings early and encourage and develop them in those areas. As you do this, a few cautions: Don't try to make your kids like you and don't compare them to one-another.

b) Communicate well with you children. Take time to both talk to them and listen to them. Many parents don't listen, they just talk. Listen to more than what they say, listen to their lives! Don't accept their not talking. Draw it out of them.

c) Say I am sorry or I was wrong when you need to.

d) Use your children's faith from their earliest days. Need their prayers and their faith in your ministry.

e) Keep your home fun and full of laughter. When homes become only serious and have no life, no fun, no laughter in them, kids turn off. Their young hearts are built for fun, don't ever forget this. That is how God made them and you must make use of it.

f) Don't compartmentalize your life. The Kingdom is everything, prayer, ministry, teaching and fun with the children. It is all a part of the life we live and it is all spiritual and important.

Above all, make your kids the greatest of your disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ. They are your first followers of the Lord!



Part #5: The Leader's Character

Character – those collection of traits that make a person who or what they are. The world is crying out for men and women of character, for our world lacks so little true character.

Paul, in his words about what should make up the life of a leader in Jesus' church speaks more about character than any other issue. He uses words to describe leaders like: gentle, self-controlled, hospitable, not given over to much wine or the love of money, humble, mature, trustworthy, honest. He speaks of CHARACTER.

Someone once said, "What it takes you a lifetime to build through your gifts and hard work, you can destroy in one moment through your character," and so it is in leadership in the church.

- Character counts for everything
- Character is who and what you are when no one is looking
- Character is the foundation for all of your gifts and ministry
- Character is what people will ultimately follow or walk away from
- Character is what makes you an anointable vessel for life

A Crisis of Character

Today in the Body of Christ, there is a crisis of character in leadership. Men and women are falling prey to all sorts of sins and character breakdowns. Some of the common failures are. . .

- Sexual immorality of some sort
- Pride and arrogance
- Control and manipulations of God's people
- Covetousness and Greed
- Dishonesty and lying

The last area of our lives, we must develop strong and true is that of our character. This is perhaps what God desires the most and He longs to form us deep and true; straight as a chosen arrow so that He might shoot us into His kingdom business time after time.



Reflection: Character Questionnaire

Be absolutely honest with yourself as you answer the following questions to check up on how you are developing in your character.

- 1) Do you serve God's people or are you a master over them?
- 2) Do you long for the praise of people?
- 3) Do you need to be in the front or in the spotlight with people?
- 4) Are you absolutely honest in all of your words and conversations?



- 5) Do you keep your word whenever you give it and follow through fully with your promises?
 - 6) Can people count on you to be trustworthy?
 - 7) Are you completely clean from lust and sexual immorality?
 - 8) Are there any pornography issues in your life?
 - 9) Would Christ approve of all that you watch and see?
 - 10) Are you controlled by the fear of man or the fear of God?
 - 11) Are you a man pleaser or God pleaser?
 - 12) Are you free from the love of money and covetousness?
 - 13) Do you work hard and produce through your life?
 - 14) Are you lazy?
 - 15) Do you finish what you start?
-

Important Character Traits to Develop in our Lives

All through the scriptures we find God speaking to us about our character. He is constantly trying to conform us to the image of His Son and make us the kind of person that He can use to fulfill His purposes. Our character development is critical to our long-term success in leadership and God has promised us that He will work powerfully in this area of our life if we will join Him in the work.



Bible Study: List and describe the character traits you see in the following verses:

1. 2 Peter 1.5-11
 2. Col. 3.12-14
 3. Gal. 5.22-23
 4. Exod. 18.21
-

#1 Servanthood – The leader in Christ's church must clothe himself/herself with servanthood. You cannot be a master of God's people, you must be a servant of all. With this trait comes humility and gentleness.

#2 Humility – the understanding that everything comes from God and you are completely dependent upon Him. Humility toward man is making yourself equal with every person and determining to love and serve them.

#3 Hard Work – This trait is missing in the body of Christ today. We must become those who work long and hard for Him. We must deal ruthlessly with laziness, set goals, build strategy and work hard. Proverbs is full of teaching about laziness and hard work.

#4 Honesty and Integrity – We must be people who speak the truth, say what they mean and mean what they say. We must NOT lie, and we must always keep our word even if it hurts us. We must be people who can be trusted and who are trustworthy.



#5 Purity and Holiness – the abstaining and fleeing from all that would defile or cause you to sin. The bible says that the fear of the Lord is to hate evil, to flee from evil, and to expose evil. We must be especially pure in the area of dealing with the opposite sex holding to the most holy standards possible not to even give any room for accusation.

#6 Stedfastness and Perseverance – this is the ability to finish strong. The church lacks this today. We must be those who start things, stay strong in the middle and then finish what we start.

#7 Loyalty – We must be people who are loyal to those God places in our lives with deep love and truth. We must not get offended and leave relationships, we must not live for selfish ambition, but be loyal to the community of people God has committed us to and them to us.

#8 A Positive Mental Attitude – Jesus Christ was the most positive person in the history of the universe. The very nature of God is to see faith and to be positive. We as leaders must wage war on all negative thinking, negative leading, critical spirit. We must develop and radiate a positive life outlook and lead from this perspective.

#9 A Right Attitude Toward Money – Many leaders have fallen into many problems because of the wrong attitude toward money or mishandling money. The Bible is full of the same advice about a leader's attitude about wealth and money, but above all, it says for us to stay away from greed and covetousness in our leadership of His people.

#10 A Lifestyle of Sacrifice – A final character trait needed for leadership in His body is sacrifice. Everything in the gospels as He calls leaders speaks for lives of sacrifice and commitment. Are you willing to lay down your life in sacrifice to the King for His Kingdom?

Peter's Words About Character

We would do well to listen to Peter's admonition after speaking about working together with the Lord to develop your character in 2 Peter¹ when he said. . .

"For if these {qualities} are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these {qualities} is blind {or} short-sighted, having forgotten {his} purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;"

Character needs to be increasing in your life – you need to be growing in your character, then you will be useful to the Lord and fruitful in your ministry. If you are not growing in character, you are blind and have lost your way. Growth in character will cause you to never stumble!

Closing: That is you – a man or woman of God who is growing in the character of the Lord Jesus who will never stumble; a person who has followed



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the words of Paul, Jesus and others and has built a personal life that is strong, stable, and full of character. A person whose family is godly, healthy and growing. A person who has a healthy attitude toward God's money. A person whose relationship with Christ and faith is constantly being nurtured and fed.

APPENDIX I

Scriptures on Marriage
Eph 5:21-33

I Cor 6:12-20 (sexual immorality)

I Cor 7

I Cor 11: 3-11

I Cor 13: 4-7

II Cor 6:14-18

I Pet 3:1-7

Col 3:18-19

Gal 5:15

Prov 31:10-31

Gen 2:18-24

Matt 19:6

Heb 13:4

Prov 24: 3-4

Prov 14:1

Eccl 4:9-12

APPENDIX II

Scriptures on Raising Children
Eph 5:1-4

Eph 6:1-4

Psalms 127:3-5

Deut 6:5-7

1 Kings 1:6

Col 3:21, 23-25

Heb 12:11

Prov 22:15

Prov 20:30

Prov 23:13-14

Prov 19:18

Prov 13:2

Prov 29:17

Prov 20:11

Prov 22:6

Prov 13:1

Prov 16:21

Prov 17:21

Prov 10:1

Prov 23:24-25

APPENDIX III

Scriptures on Relationships
Pro 17.17

Pro 18.24

Pro 27.6, 9, 10

Matt 5.21-25

Matt 5.43-48

Matt 7.12

John 13.12-17

John 13.34-35

Acts 2.42-47

Romans 14

Gal 5.13-26

Gal 6.1-6

Eph 4.1-6

Eph 4.25-32

Phil 2.3-8

1 John 3.16-18

1 John 4.7-8

APPENDIX IV

Scriptures on Finances
Gen 14.18-20

Lev 27.30

Deut. 7.13-15

Deut. 8.18

Deut 28. 1-13

Pro 3.9-10, 11.25, 19.6, 22.9

Mal 3.8-11

Matt 6.1-4, 6.19-21

Mark 12.41-44

2 Cor 8.9

2 Cor 9.6-12

1 Tim 6.5-11

Heb 13.5-6